

Applicant(s): P. Bonutti
Application No.: 09/925,551
Examiner: V. Bui

Amendments to the Claims

1.-71. (Cancelled)

72. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim ~~71~~ 76 wherein said step of freeze drying the body tissue includes removing liquid from the body tissue.

73. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim ~~71~~ 76 further including the step of forming a sheet of body tissue and removing a portion from the sheet of body tissue.

74.-75. (Cancelled)

76. (Previously presented) A method of anchoring a suture, said method comprising:
rotating a cutting tool and moving the rotating cutting tool into body tissue;
rotating a thin elongated member and moving the rotating thin elongated member into the body tissue;
freeze drying body tissue;
inserting a suture into a passage in the freeze dried body tissue; and
inserting the freeze dried body tissue into a patient's body with the suture extending the passage in the freeze dried body tissue, wherein said steps of rotating a cutting tool and moving the rotating cutting tool into the body tissue and said steps of rotating a thin elongated member and moving the rotating thin elongated member into body tissue are performed together.

77. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim ~~71~~ 76 further including the step of removing cartilage from a body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the cartilage.

78. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim ~~71~~ 76 further including the

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step of removing at least a portion of a tendon from a body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the tendon.

79. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim ~~74~~ 76 further including the step of removing at least a portion of a bone from a body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the bone.

80. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim ~~74~~ 76 wherein said step of inserting the freeze dried body tissue into a patient's body includes moving the freeze dried body tissue into the patient's body with a first end portion of the freeze dried body tissue leading and a second end portion of the freeze dried body tissue trailing and applying force against the second end portion of the freeze dried body tissue.

81. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim ~~74~~ 76 wherein said step of freeze drying body tissue includes forming a sheet of freeze dried body tissue, said method further includes moving a member into the sheet of freeze dried body tissue.

82. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim ~~74~~ 76 further including the step of cutting body tissue of an animal other than a human, said step of inserting the freeze dried body tissue into a patient's body includes inserting the freeze dried body tissue into a human patient's body.

83. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim ~~74~~ 76 wherein said step of inserting the freeze dried body tissue into a patient's body includes positioning the freeze dried body tissue in the patient's body at a location where the freeze dried body tissue is exposed to body fluid to enable the freeze dried body tissue to absorb body fluid.

84. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim ~~74~~ 76 further including the

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step of removing bone from the patient's body, said step freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the bone removed from the patient's body.

85. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim ~~74~~ 76 further including the step of removing bone from a body other than the patient's body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the bone removed from a body other than the patient's body.

86. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim ~~74~~ 76 further including the steps of placing the body tissue in a press, and operating the press to apply pressure against the body tissue in the press to shape the body tissue in the press during operation of the press, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying body tissue removed from the press.

87. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim ~~74~~ 76 further including the step of piercing freeze dried body tissue to at least partially form the passage.

88. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim ~~74~~ 76 further including the step of moving a cutting tool to cut freeze dried body tissue and at least partially form a surface of the freeze dried body tissue.

89. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim ~~74~~ 76 wherein said step of inserting the freeze dried body tissue into the patient's body includes moving the freeze dried body tissue into the patient's body with the freeze dried body tissue in a first orientation, and applying force against the freeze dried body tissue to pivot the freeze dried body tissue from the first orientation to a second orientation while the freeze dried body tissue is in the patient's body.

90. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 89 wherein said step of applying force against the freeze dried body tissue includes tensioning the suture.

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91. (Currently amended) A method of retaining portions of first and second tissue elements in a patient's body against movement relative to each other, said method comprising the steps of freeze drying body tissue, engaging at least one of the first and second tissue elements in the patient's body with the freeze dried body tissue, and securing the first and second body tissue elements together by transmitting force between the first and second tissue elements through the freeze dried body tissue, such that the first and second tissue elements are retained against movement relative to each other, wherein the first tissue is bone tissue and the second tissue is soft tissue.

92. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 91 wherein said step of freeze drying the body tissue includes removing liquid from the body tissue.

93. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of forming a sheet of body tissue and removing a portion from the sheet of body tissue.

94. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of rotating a cutting tool and moving the rotating cutting tool into body tissue.

95. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 94 further including the step of rotating a thin elongated member and moving the rotating thin elongated member into the body tissue.

96. (Previously presented) A method of retaining portions of first and second tissue elements in a patient's body against movement relative to each other, said method comprising:
rotating a cutting tool and moving the rotating cutting tool into body tissue;
rotating a thin elongated member and moving the rotating thin elongated member into the body tissue;
freeze drying body tissue;

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engaging at least one of the first and second tissue elements in the patient's body with the freeze dried body tissue; and

transmitting force between the first and second tissue elements through the freeze dried body tissue, wherein said steps of rotating a cutting tool and moving the rotating cutting tool into the body tissue and said steps of rotating a thin elongated member and moving the rotating thin elongated member into body tissue are performed together.

97. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of removing cartilage from a body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the cartilage.

98. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of removing at least a portion of a tendon from a body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the tendon.

99. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of removing at least a portion of a bone from a body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the bone.

100. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of moving the freeze dried body tissue into the patient's body with a first end portion of the freeze dried body tissue leading and a second end portion of the freeze dried body tissue trailing and applying force against the second end portion of the freeze dried body tissue.

101. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 91 wherein said step of freeze drying body tissue includes forming a sheet of freeze dried body tissue, said method further includes moving a member into the sheet of freeze dried body tissue.

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102. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of cutting body tissue of an animal other than a human, said step of engaging at least one of the first and second tissue elements in a patient's body includes inserting the freeze dried body tissue into a human patient's body.

103. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 91 wherein said step of engaging at least one of the first and second tissue elements in a patient's body includes positioning the freeze dried body tissue in the patient's body at a location where the freeze dried body tissue is exposed to body fluid to enable the freeze dried body tissue to absorb body fluid.

104. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of removing bone from the patient's body, said step freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the bone removed from the patient's body.

105. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of removing bone from a body other than the patient's body, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying the bone removed from a body other than the patient's body.

106. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the steps of placing the body tissue in a press, and operating the press to apply pressure against the body tissue in the press to shape the body tissue in the press during operation of the press, said step of freeze drying body tissue includes freeze drying body tissue removed from the press.

107. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step of piercing freeze dried body tissue to at least partially form a passage in the freeze dried body tissue.

108. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 91 further including the step

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of moving a cutting tool to cut freeze dried body tissue and at least partially form a surface of the freeze dried body tissue.